

Study guides for 'JFK' criticized

By Tom Chorneau
Daily News Staff Writer

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors urged school officials Tuesday to shun a study guide based on the Oliver Stone film "JFK" — three months after the guides were mailed to local teachers.

Supervisor Edmund D. Edelman said the film about the assassination of President Kennedy was rife with inaccuracies. Although he has not seen the study guide, Edelman said, materials connected with the movie would be inappropriate.

"The film has no business in

the history classroom," said Edelman, whom Kennedy appointed as a staff attorney at the National Labor Relations Board in 1963 and who continued in that position in the Lyndon Johnson administration.

Officials with Warner Bros. films defended the study guide and questioned Edelman's motives in criticizing the guide Tuesday — the day Stone testified before a congressional committee seeking to open sealed assassination files.

Rob Friedman, president of worldwide advertising and publicity for Warner Bros., said the guide was sent to about 1,100

teachers in Los Angeles County in January. He said film companies routinely send guides on movies of historical interest as a means of promoting a film.

"This was put together by an outside contractor who never saw the movie nor a script," Friedman said. "The purpose of the study guide — like guides produced to go with such movies as 'Dances with Wolves,' 'The Little Mermaid' and 'Hamlet' — is to give teachers and students a current-event subject they can pursue in the classroom."

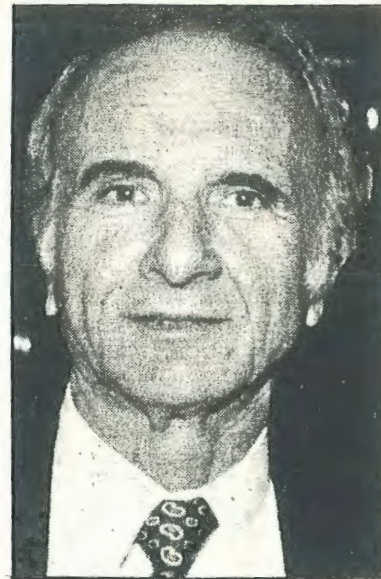
Edelman denied he timed his motion to cast a cloud over Stone's testimony in Washing-

ton. "I only wish I was that smart," he said.

Joel Bellman, an Edelman aide, said later that the supervisor learned about the study guide only recently from "a friend" close to the Warren Commission, which investigated the murder.

Edelman said his affiliation with the Kennedy and Johnson administrations had no impact on his decision to oppose the guide distribution.

Although the guides were mailed to teachers in January, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Unified School District could not confirm that any ever reached one of their classrooms.



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